

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 00220 160648Z

13

ACTION NEA-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-05 DRC-01 RSC-01 /013 W

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R 160554Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO USDOC WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5902

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, SA

SUBJECT: TRADE OPPORTUNITY: POLICE UNIFORM TENDER

REF: A. USDOC 0015; B. JIDDA 0089

1. EMBASSY HAS OBTAINED FURTHER INFORMATION FROM AID/OPS ADVISOR TO INTERIOR MINISTRY IN RIYADH. SET OF SPECIFICATIONS IS IN WASHINGTON WITH LEONARD FRIESZ, CHIEF OF TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, OFFICE OF PUBLIC SAFETY, AID.

2. AS DEADLINE FOR BIDS HAS PASSED, ONLY HOPE FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY NOW IS THAT SAG WILL THROW OUT BIDS RECEIVED AND RE-ISSUE TENDER. SUCH A DECISION WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BE LARGELY DEPENDENT ON RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TECHNICAL EVALUATION TEAM TO BE PROVIDED FROM THE U.S. DEPT. OF DEFENSE. ARRIVAL OF THIS TEAM CURRENTLY AWAITING SIGNATURE OF LETTER OF AGREEMENT BY MINISTRY INTERIOR. WHILE THE TEAM WILL NECESSARILY HAVE TO BE IMPARTIAL IN ITS TECHNICAL JUDGEMENTS, POSSIBILITY THAT IT WOULD RECOMMEND RETENDERING MIGHT BE INFLUENCED BY KNOWLEDGE OF SERIOUS INTEREST OF WELL-QUALIFIED U.S. FIRM(S) IN THE EVENT OF BORDERLINE ACCEPTIBILITY AMONG EXISTING BIDS. FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT FUNCTION OF TEAM SHOULD BE AVAILABLE THRU FREISZ.

3. AID/OPS ADVISOR WAS ALSO ABLE TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND

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PAGE 02 JIDDA 00220 160648Z

ON EARLIER UNIFORM TENDER ASKED ABOUT IN REF. A.

SUBJECT TENDER IS IN FACT REVIVAL OF EARLIER ONE, WHICH WAS ABORTED BY INTERIOR MINISTER PRINCE FAHD AFTER SENIOR MINY INTERIOR OFFICIALS WERE CAUGHT IN FLAGRANT KICK-BACK MANEUVERING ON TENDER. ONE OF THE REASONS FOR SAG REQUEST FOR USG ASSISTANCE ON EVALUATION OF BIDS THIS TIME EVIDENTLY WAS TO PRE-EMPT POSSIBILITY OF SUCH CONNIVING AGAIN. AID ADVISOR RECALLS THAT AMERICAN FIRM WAS LOW BIDDER ON EARLIER TENDER, BUT CANNOT LOCATE NAME. HOPEFULLY, COMMERCE MAY HAVE IT ON RECORD AS THIS WOULD SEEM PRIME CANDIDATE SHOULD BIDDING BE RE-OPENED.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JIDDA00220
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740138/aaaabjzp.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. USDOC 0015; B. JIDDA 0089
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 AUG 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <03-Sep-2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TRADE OPPORTUNITY: POLICE UNIFORM TENDER
TAGS: BEXP, SA
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005